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SUBJECT: Unrest in the South-Eastern Ukraine, Kuban, and Western Georgia in summer 1962

SOURCE: TOPCHIY, Helyna, Ukrainian, Belgian citizen, married to a Belgian (his name: Delattre Leon), residing at 20, Ave.des Tilleuls, Hondeng Am., Ht.

DATE: 25 Dec 1962

- 1. Source stems from KHARKOV-pblast, aged 40, finished semylitka, mother of two children: daughter Victoria and son Mykola, aged 17 and 5 respectively. Source is member of the Union of Soviet Citizens, and 16 Dec 1962 was elected as delegate from Centre to the Brussels-Conference of the Union. According to B. she only pretends to be a good member of the Union and in reality does it in order to be able to visit her relatives in the Ukraine. Source visited them in 1959 and 1960. First time she went to the Ukraine with her children, second time also with husband. The latter was very much disappointed by what he saw in the Soviet Union.
- 2. According to Source's friends who visited the Ukraine (KIEV- and KHARKOV-oblasts) in August and September 1962, the people all over the Ukrainian Republic were talking at that time about unrest and "uprisings" in cities of Rostov-area, Donbass, in Kuban, and in some harbor-cities of Western Georgia. Among Georgian places were mentioned TUAPSE and BATUMI,

Unrest and uprisings were caused by the rise of foodprices and increased norms in factories and in mines. First and
largest demonstrations started in NOVOCHERKASSK in June 1962.
Very soon they turned into a regular uprisings which was finally
quelled by special military units brought from Siberia. During
the street-fighting and following massacres over 500 persons were
killed. Army-units used tanks. Among the killed there were many
children and women. During the demonstrations, prior to the
arrival of the army, many militiamen, druzhinniki and party-officials
were beaten up and some of them killed.

Similar bloody uprising took place at about the same time (June 1962) in KRASNODAR. There also special military units were used to suppress the demonstrations. They did their job by killing many people. As to KRASNODAR-uprising the people were talking about a group of sailors who happened to be then in the city and during the demonstrations should have played very active role.

In TAGANROG, TUAPSE and BATUMI, as well as in other ports, there were strikes of dock-workers and fishermen who manifested in this way their solidarity with NOVOCHERKASSK, KRASNODAR and other cities. However, only in a few places it came to bloody collisions of workers with militiamen and druzhinniki.

Also practically the whole DONBASS-area was swept by strikes. Winers refused to go down and organized sitting strikes. Party and militia tried their best to persuade people not to revolt and go back to work. They also promised extra-pay and rations. Then one night "the whole army" was transported to DONBASS-cities from Siberia, to meet any emergency. "It looked as though during the war behind the front, everywhere soldiers and tanke". The atmosphere was very tense.xxx Some party people lost completely their heads and did not know what to do until the army arrived.

Similar situation was in Western Georgia. There were also demonstration against the rise of prices and for solidarity with NOVOCHERKAS K and KRASNODAR.

In some places in KUBAN when KHRUSHCHEV was supposed to pass by on his way to SOCHI many people gathered at the Railroad stations and demanded to be heard by NIZITA, trying even to force the railway-men to stop rolling trains.

After uprisings and demonstartion, in all places, there were arrests of those most active participants. Many of them did not return yet and there were also rumors that they might have been "quietely liquidated" as in the old times.